

No. 6 News From Poland 1936

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Issued by The National Council of the Polish YMCA. Paul Super, General Director. Konopnickiej 6, Warsaw. Poland

We Keep Growing

The fiscal year of the Polish YMCA ends March 31st. The report of the general director shows the following growth in enrollments to have been realized during the last twelve month period. There are three large Associations, Warsaw, Lodz, and Krakow, and two small ones, Gdynia and Poznan.

Membership

March 31, 1936 5616
March 31, 1935 4323

an increase of 30%

Non-member enrollment

March 1936 6335
March 1935 2359

an increase of 168%

Groups and Clubs

	Clubs	Members
March 1936	106	2019
March 1935	101	1518

an increase of 33%

Physical Department Enrollment

In Member Groups In Non-Member Groups

March 1936 2523 6335
March 1935 1353 2359

an increase of 138%

Educational Department Enrollment

March 1936 715
March 1935 487

an increase of 47%



YMCA Institute in Prague

May 4 to 30 an international institute for YMCA secretaries was held in the Prague, Czechoslovakia, YMCA building, attended during those weeks by about 40 different men. In the picture are 7 Poles, 6 Czechs, 4 Englishmen, 3 Swedes, 1 Swiss, 1 Yugoslav, 1 Latvian, 1 Estonian, and 3 Americans.

In the front row are two young British secretaries, then Super of Poland, Lewis of Czechoslovakia, Van Dis of Akron, Ohio, John Howell of England, Zalewski of Poland and Johannot of Geneva, director of the course as the representative of the World's Committee.

International friendship was one of the delightful aspects of the institute. The personal charm of Mr. Howell was a great influence in the group.

Street Orchestra Contest

An interesting contest was held in the Warsaw YMCA the other night before an enthusiastic audience of members. Orchestras wander about the city of Warsaw playing in the courtyards of the great apartment houses. One of the program secretaries of the Warsaw Y M C A rounded up three of these orchestras and they provided a pleasant evening for the members, demonstrating their relative musical merits and superiorities.



Major-General Felicjan Slawoj-Skladkowski, M. D.

Poland's New Premier

During a number of years of contact with the leaders of Poland, none have attracted me more personally than has General Skladkowski, the new premier, whom I met 10 years ago when he was Minister of Interior. Coming into his office one at once receives a very definite impression of his dominant characteristics; administrative ability of a high order, clear and direct honesty, energy, sense of duty and of purpose. To talk with him is increasingly to feel that here is indeed a real man, one to be trusted, one to be valued as a friend; a man to whom one is greatly drawn, notwithstanding his exterior sternness. Simple and direct, his years in high office have not spoiled him. One feels that he will yield no important principle, that he will make no serious mistakes.

A doctor of medicine, he threw in his fate with Marshal Pilsudski in those dark and trying years 1914 — 1920, and became one of the Marshal's circle of trusted leaders, and eventually Minister of Interior, where he brought about a number of useful reforms. The War Ministry needing just such abilities, he was then made the administrative vice-Minister, where he served until called to the position of Prime Minister this May.

When Dr. Mott was in Poland in 1933 and was given a dinner in the palace of the then Prime Minister, General Skladkowski was one of the 20 guests; he and Dr. Mott had met six or seven years before. After the dinner the general assured me of his friendship for the

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At the dedication, or as the Poles say, the blessing of the Krakow YMCA new boathouse on the Vistula River by the priest of the Catholic church of that parish, Sunday May 3rd, there were present the governor of the province; the "starosta" of the district, the curator of public education, and other leaders of Krakow life. The Governor, Col. Gnoinski, is at the extreme right.

Henry Sienkiewicz

Anniversary

The 5th of May was the 90th anniversary of the birth of the great Polish author and patriot Henry Sienkiewicz, best known in the English speaking world as the author of "Quo Vadis" and winner of the Nobel Prize for literature, but in Poland as the man who through the writing of his splendid trilogy "With Fire and Sword", "The Deluge", and "Pan Michael", historical romances of 17th century Poland, did so much to form and sustain the spirit of Poland during the depressing years of foreign rule before Poland obtained its liberty in 1918.

In Curtin's English translation these are still widely read in America and England, and I am one of the thousands who have found it hard to put them down and go to bed. What permanent characters in our thought and conversation are Zagloba, a Polish Falstaff, Bogdan the outlaw, Pan Michael, indomitable knight Longinus and his long sword, and the beautiful Helena! How he makes these turbulent years live again, and how real the eastern marches of Poland and the Ukraine!

His ashes are buried in the Warsaw Cathedral; his books will be read as long as people love romance and feel the grip and thrill of vividly related history.

Trypka of Lodz

With the resignation of Mr. H. J. Rounds as general secretary of the Lodz YMCA to return to America and the election of Mr. A. L. Trypka to fill that position the second of the three large city YMCAs in Poland passes entirely into Polish hands and leadership. Mr. Trypka has been with the Polish YMCA as an employed officer for over 15 years. Seven years ago his service was broken for a period of two years while he attended the YMCA School in Geneva. During the war repelling the Bolshevik invasion of 1920 he was decorated for bravery and this year he received the Silver Medal of Merit for his work in the YMCA. Mr. Rounds leaves behind him a splendid building and a competent successor.

The new Lodz YMCA building, opened in September, has proved itself a splendid success; 1800 members have been enrolled and the building is rapidly becoming an important community center, showing the necessity of building the front wing as soon as possible.

YMCA, a friendship which has ever since received both moral and material demonstration. He is a member of the honorary committee of the Warsaw YMCA, the committee under whose aegis the Warsaw YMCA has made such records in money raising during the crisis,



Dedication of the Krakow Y Boat house

